



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10839**



Introduced by Representative Bambi B. Emano

AN ACT
DECLARING THE BARUNGOY FESTIVAL AS THE OFFICIAL FESTIVAL OF
THE MUNICIPALITY OF LIBERTAD, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL,
DECLARING JUNE 21 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING
HOLIDAY THEREIN

EXPLANATORY

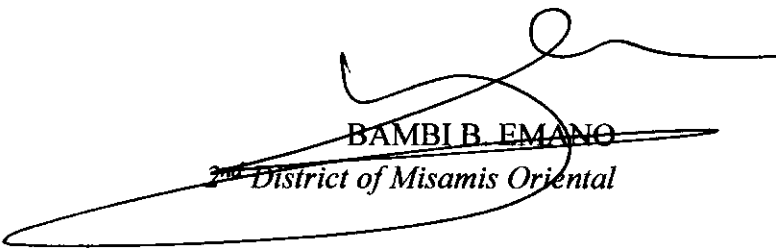
Section 15, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to protect, preserve, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage, resources, and artistic expressions. This constitutional mandate emphasizes the importance of supporting and institutionalizing community-based celebrations that preserve local traditions, uphold shared values, and strengthen the distinct cultural identity of every Filipino community. Local festivals serve as meaningful expressions of a community's heritage, historical experiences, collective aspirations, and enduring spirit. Beyond cultural preservation, these celebrations contribute to local development by creating opportunities for tourism promotion, economic growth, and active community participation.

The Barungoy Festival embodies the Municipality of Libertad's steadfast commitment to preserving its cultural heritage, strengthening community solidarity, and advancing sustainable local development. It highlights fishing as a significant way of life and a source of livelihood for approximately thirty percent (30%) or more of the municipality's population who depend on the catching of barungoy fish. More than a celebration, the festival honors the industry, resilience, and perseverance of the people of Libertad whose lives are deeply connected to the richness of their aquatic resources. It serves as a tribute to their collective efforts, while promoting responsible fishing practices, environmental stewardship, and greater appreciation for the community's natural heritage.

Through this measure, the Barungoy Festival is sought to be declared as the official festival of the Municipality of Libertad, Province of Misamis Oriental, to be celebrated annually every 21st day of June in commemoration of its founding anniversary pursuant to Republic Act No. 3584. It further seeks to declare the occasion as a special non-working holiday in the

municipality and provide the necessary funding support to ensure the continued celebration, preservation, and sustainability of this significant cultural tradition for the benefit of present and future generations.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this resolution is earnestly sought.



BAMBI B. EMANO

2nd District of Misamis Oriental



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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the “**Barungoy Festival Act.**”

SECTION 2. The Barungoy Festival, derived from the barungoy fish, which serves as the primary source of livelihood of the people of Libertad, is hereby declared as the official festival of the Municipality of Libertad, Province of Misamis Oriental.

SECTION 3. June 21 of every year is hereby declared a special non-working holiday in the Municipality of Libertad in celebration of the Barungoy Festival. This is to allow the people of Libertad to fully participate in the said festival, which is celebrated in recognition of the resilience, industry, and invaluable contribution of the municipality's fishermen. The festival shall serve to preserve and promote the municipality's fishing heritage, cultural identity, and the economic importance of the barungoy fishing industry.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,